

Thilot Holland Implements ProNest® to Program FLOW Waterjet Machine

Company Profile

LOTTUM, NETHERLANDS—**Thilot Holland BV** (www.thilot.nl) is the world's leading manufacturer of phase I composting plants, phase II and III tunnel operations, as well as equipment and machines for mushroom farming. Thilot also designs and manufactures a variety of other machinery and they operate a subcontract job-shop waterjet cutting operation using their FLOW waterjet cutting machine. Thilot has been in business for more than forty years and their objective in business is to deliver better value through increased performance, reliability and quality.



Photo courtesy of Flow International, Corp.

Programming Challenge

In today's world of machinery design it is increasingly popular to select a 3D CAD software program to create the entire product design. These software programs, including **SolidWorks**®, **Pro/Engineer**® and **Autodesk® Inventor**™, have helped revolutionize the design process and significantly reduce the product development cycle; but at a price for those processing sheet and plate materials. Rudy Thielen, owner of Thilot states the challenges they faced working with 3D part drawings (which need to be flattened before they are nested and cut)—“We had been using the software that came with our FLOW waterjet machine (FlowCut). Although a bit limiting in certain applications we had to make do with it (FlowCut) for processing our 2D DXF files.



Photos courtesy of Thilot Holland BV.

Then, when we decided to shift to **Inventor** for our design process (where 3D files are standard), creating the 2D DXF files needed to interface with FlowCut became an additional process that took a lot of extra time. We also had to be careful that any changes we made to the 3D files were updated to the 2D files. The process became very tedious so we decided to look for a programming solution.”

Thilot Holland BV continued

Did You Know . . .

MTC Software can provide one nesting program that will work with most cutting machines and CNC controls; new and old alike.

Interesting Facts . . .

- ▶ *Our employees understand the cutting processes you work with*
- ▶ *Our ProNest software works seamlessly with all leading brands of waterjet machines, including Flow, Omax, Jet Edge, and many others*
- ▶ *Our products are so easy to learn we can install the software and train a new customer online, the same day*

Problem Solved

After some internet research, Rudy found **MTC Software** and discussed his dilemma with the staff at their Bensheim Germany office. MTC explained that with **ProNest®** and its optional *Inventor* 3D CAD Interface module, Thilot would be able to directly import 3D files flattened and ready for use. Rudy was also provided with details on the optional ProNest modules specifically developed for waterjet applications. The next day, MTC used online meeting technology to remotely install a fully functional trial of ProNest with the *Inventor* interface so that Rudy could see the power of the total solution for himself. ProNest not only provided Rudy with the 3D CAD interface, but also CAD line-color mapping to give specific feedrate values and the native *.ORD CNC file format used with his FLOW waterjet machine. Within a few days, Rudy made the decision to purchase the ProNest solution and now has the following to say—**“The new software (ProNest) has already started to save us a lot of programming time by using the *Inventor* 3D CAD interface. In addition, we have been experimenting with the Advanced True Shape automatic nesting module and have definitely gained material savings from the improved nest utilization. Overall, the operation of ProNest with our system is seamless and I am confident that the software will pay for itself many times over in the coming years.”** As Thilot continue with their business, they will be able to add further optional ProNest modules which will allow even greater productivity with their FLOW waterjet machine—including *Advanced Common Line Cutting and Collision Avoidance*, and *Nest Background Image*. **Power Made Simple!**



Rudy Thielen
President, Thilot Holland BV

TECHNICAL BRIEF

For More Information

Learn about MTC Software programming solutions that can help your company improve product quality and increase productivity and profitability. Visit our website at www.mtc-software.com or call your local office.



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ProNest® Advantage

Here are just a few examples of the benefits you can achieve when using ProNest to program your waterjet machine:

- Use the **Quality** designation as a means to assign different feedrates to the entities of a part, and control the resulting surface quality
- Use **Dynamic Piercing** to maximize piercing efficiency on thick plate by rapidly moving the nozzle in a cyclical motion so that jet “rebound” does not get in the way of the incoming water stream
- Use **Variable Feedrate, Nozzle Dwell and Pierce Pressure Parameters** to maximize productivity and part quality
- Use **Advanced Common-Line Cutting** to automatically or interactively nest and common-line cut an unlimited amount of parts together on the same nest; resulting in a reduction in pierce cycles and cutting time
- Use **Nest Background Image** to avoid producing scrap parts where the work material has surface defects; simply import a digital picture of the material and superimpose it onto the ProNest work area allowing manual nesting to occur around any blemishes
- Use **Collision Avoidance** to eliminate the chance of nozzle collisions and significantly reduce production time through a combination of moving lead in/out positions, developing avoidance paths around possible tip-up situations, and by using partial or full head raises